
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6439

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION OF UNUSED MEDICATION.

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits a health care institution and its employees, staff, contractors, or other people under its direction or supervision from discharging, disposing of, flushing, pouring, or emptying unused medication into a wastewater collection or septic system. Hospitals are exempt from the prohibition.

Under the bill, “unused medication” means unopened, expired, or excess medication dispensed for patient or resident care and includes pills, tablets, capsules, and caplets.

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to organize a public awareness campaign about the (1) dangers of unsafe pharmaceutical disposal and (2) availability of retail pharmaceutical collection programs. The department must do so within available appropriations and in consultation with the Department of Consumer Protection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

HEALTH CARE INSTITUTION

For purposes of the bill’s prohibition, a “health care institution” is a public or private institution or agency licensed or certified by the state to provide health care. It includes a nursing home; residential health care facility; home health care agency; hospice program; or an institution, facility, or agency providing services to people with psychiatric or intellectual disabilities. It excludes hospitals.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/04/2013)